

**DECLARATION OF WAYNE BLANCHARD,  
ASSISTANT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER, LAFAYETTE, LA**

1. I, Wayne Blanchard, make the following declaration based on my personal knowledge and declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the following is true and correct.
2. I am a licensed attorney and member in good standing of the Louisiana bar. I am currently employed as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Lafayette, Louisiana office. I have been a federal public defender in the Lafayette office for 28 years.
3. I have represented and currently represent clients in the custody of the United States Marshals Service (USMS) in the Iberia Parish Jail (Iberia), located in Iberia Parish, Louisiana, the St. Martin Parish Jail (St. Martin), located in St. Martinville, Louisiana, and the Natchitoches Parish Jail (Natchitoches), located in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana (collectively, the "Facilities"), as well as other facilities in Louisiana. Most of my clients are in Iberia and St. Martin. This declaration is based only on my personal experiences representing clients at the Facilities and is not necessarily reflective of other attorneys' experiences. All of the Facilities are run by their respective Sherriff's Office, which have contracts with USMS.

**In-Person Visits at the Facilities**

4. Before the pandemic, I visited clients at these Facilities about 2 times per week; more recently, I visit clients at these Facilities about 2 times a week. To visit my clients in person, I send an email to a standard email inbox prior to my visit. In the email, I include a list of clients I need to visit and the specific times I'd like to see them. I generally send this request the day before I want to visit; there is no strict requirement to make the request 24 hours in advance. I receive a confirmation email response to confirm my visit within 1 hour of sending the email request.
5. In my experience, if I need to visit a client and was unable to schedule an in-person visit in advance, I am able to do drop-in visits to see clients at Iberia and St. Martin. The ability to conduct drop-in visits has been helpful for when I have needed to visit clients on an urgent basis.
6. When I arrive at these Facilities to visit clients, there is minimal to no wait time. I am able to see clients generally within five minutes of arriving at these Facilities.
7. I can enter all of the Facilities with my laptop, and use my laptop while I'm meeting with clients.
8. There are private spaces where I meet clients at Iberia and St. Martin. At Natchitoches, there is one attorney-client meeting room, and if that room is occupied, staff will let us use their offices or conference rooms as private spaces for my meetings with clients. All of my

visits at the Facilities are “contact” visits; there is no barrier or separation preventing physical contact during my legal visits. My clients and I are able to have confidential conversations in the private meeting spaces at the Facilities, and we are able to hear each other well and exchange documents during the visit.

9. There is no time limit on legal visits at the Facilities.

#### **Video Teleconference (VTC) Visits at the Facilities**

10. Since the pandemic, I have primarily relied on VTC visits with my clients at the Facilities. VTC visits at the Facilities take place over Zoom. To schedule a VTC visit, I email the Facilities usually the day before, providing my client’s name, the time I want to talk with the client, and the Zoom meeting link and information. There is no strict requirement to send a request 24 hours in advance to schedule a VTC visit. In some cases, I am able to set up a VTC visit on short notice. For example, I recently had a client at Natchitoches who I could not visit in person before his initial appearance before a United States Magistrate Judge, so I asked to conduct a VTC visit on the same day he was brought to the facility, the afternoon before his initial appearance, and the facility accommodated this request.
11. VTC visits take place in a private room at Natchitoches, St. Martin, and Iberia, usually a closed-door office or conference room. I have not experienced technological or other difficulties in conducting VTC visits via Zoom at the Facilities.

#### **Phone Calls at the Facilities**

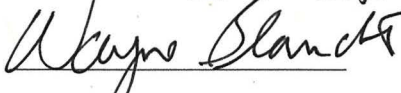
12. Because VTC and in-person visits at the Facilities are generally reliable and seamless, I rely less on phone calls with clients at the Facilities. I can schedule phone calls in advance at the Facilities, but there is no strict requirement—if I need to speak with a client over the phone immediately, staff at the Facilities will locate my client and connect us so that I can speak with him/her as long as he is available. I experience problems with scheduled phone calls at the Facilities from time to time, but they are generally honored. I can also ask staff at the Facilities to have a client call me back, and this has worked for me.
13. When clients make outgoing phone calls to us, they are sometimes calling us from their housing pods, in which case the phone calls are not private and confidential. However, at Iberia, attorneys can ask staff to bring the client to a private space for the phone call, which the facility has done for me.
14. When clients at the Facilities call us, they are generally required to pay; our office accepts collect calls from clients. However, when we call to speak with our client at the Facilities—either by a previously-scheduled phone call, or a phone call on immediate request—the client does not need to pay.

#### **Exchanging Legal Documents and Legal Mail at the Facilities**

15. I am able to bring legal documents with me when I visit clients at the Facilities and have clients review and sign documents during the visit. Sometimes, I have been able to email certain documents to staff at the Facilities, asking them to print and give the documents to my client. Based on my experience, I am able to trust the staff not to read the documents.
16. I also rely on postal mail to send and receive documents from clients at the Facilities. Although the postal mail system can be slow at times, I have not missed any court deadlines for any of my clients at the Facilities due to delays in the mail system and it is generally reliable in my experience.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 30 day of Sept 2022 in Lafayette, Louisiana.

  
Wayne Blanchard